

Parliamentary Intelligence.

NOTES ON CURRENT TOPICS.

Medical Inspection of School Children.

ONE of the Standing Committees of the House of Commons on Tuesday considered the Education (Administrative Provisions) Bill. Amongst the clauses which the committee agreed to retain in the measure was Clause 10, which relates to the medical inspection of elementary school children. There was a good deal of discussion on some of its details. Mr. LUPTON, for example, moved an amendment that the medical inspection should only be made of those children whose parents expressly wished it, but this proposal was defeated. Mr. McKENNA, the Minister for education, however, pointed out that parents who objected to the medical inspection of their children would have power to withdraw them from it. The clause emerged from the Committee with little amendment.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1ST.

Vaccination (Scotland) Bill.

Lord HAMILTON of DALZELL moved the second reading of the Vaccination (Scotland) Bill. The noble Lord (who at times was indistinctly heard in the press gallery) explained that the object of the Bill was to introduce into Scotland the provisions of the English Vaccination Act of 1898 as regarded conscientious objection, and also to extend to Scotland the principles of the English Vaccination Bill of this year, which allowed a statutory declaration of objection to vaccination to be made before a justice of the peace or a commissioner for oaths. He thought that it was a self-evident proposition that the English legislation of 1898 with respect to vaccination should be extended to Scotland. The number of people who objected to compulsory vaccination might not in Scotland be relatively so great as in England. Their grievance was just as great and their claim for redress as strong. He thought that noble lords must recognise that grievance. In spite of the almost illegal leniency with which parish councils had been permitted to administer the law with regard to vaccination the number of prosecutions had steadily increased during the past ten years, and last year the number of them was 64. He trusted that their lordships would give the Bill a second reading.

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH moved the rejection of the Bill. He said that there was no foundation for the suggestion that there was any analogy between the circumstances of Scotland and England, and there was no case for the adoption of the Bill so far as the circumstances of Scotland were concerned. The Government had passed the English Vaccination Act of 1898 because the circumstances which existed at that time made it necessary and judicious. There had been an enormous amount of discontent with the law with regard to compulsory vaccination in England. Local authorities were in revolt and the due administration of the law could not be secured. Therefore, with the consent of both Houses of Parliament, compulsory vaccination for England had been abandoned. There had never been anything analogous to these circumstances in Scotland. A great deal of the evil that had grown up in England was attributable to the fact that a child had to be vaccinated within a much shorter period than was the case in Scotland, though he believed that the period had been lengthened by recent legislation. In Scotland, if after six months a child was not vaccinated, the registrar communicated with the parish council and the parent was then offered to have sent to him a public vaccinator who would vaccinate the child, and if that offer was refused the parent was prosecuted. Up to the time he left the Scottish Office they had for a series of years vaccinated successfully 97 per cent. of the children who lived six months after birth, and in the remaining 3 per cent. were included those who were not susceptible to vaccination and those that had been lost sight of. For his part he had not seen the slightest discontent with regard to law as it existed in Scotland, and he believed that it had the active support of the public. The whole thing was moving with perfect smoothness, although he agreed that a distinction should be made between those who were honest objectors and those who were merely careless or negligent. He had every respect for those who did not believe in vaccination, though he did not think much of their intelligence, but he had no respect for those who said it was an interference with individual freedom. Almost every portion of government was an interference with individual freedom, and those who were most loud in their condemnation of all interference with freedom were the very people who were most anxious to interfere with the freedom of adult people to get a glass of beer or something else. Therefore, the statement that this was a wrong interference with the freedom of the subject was a statement that would not bear investigation. The true doctrine was this, that in a matter of this kind it was important for the community to have power to protect itself against one of the most infectious and loathsome of all diseases. Although he would not see anything very dreadful in fining a man half a crown or even ten shillings for breaking the law, he thought it was wrong to imprison any man for conscience' sake. During the time he was at the Scotch office there was not a single case of imprisonment for disobedience of the Scotch law regarding vaccination, though he feared that there had recently been one, as he had received from a correspondent a report about one man who had been sentenced to ten days' imprisonment for neglecting to have his child vaccinated, and he could not imagine any more regrettable circumstance or anything more calculated to strengthen the agitation against the administration of the vaccination laws. He believed, however, that there must have been some very special circumstances in this case to have led to the imprisonment. The real agitators in this matter of vaccination were not the conscientious objectors but those who desired to see the vaccination laws abolished altogether. They had not been furnished with any expert opinion on the question and therefore he said that the noble lord and his advisers were not dealing fairly with the House or the public in Scotland in this matter. He had also to complain at the delay in introducing the Bill. They were now in the month of August

and the Bill had not been in the other House and they were not given any opportunity of consulting the people of Scotland to ascertain whether there was any demand for it. The procedure of the Government had been to prevent the question being tested in Scotland, and if as he hoped they would, their Lordships rejected the Bill, he thought that they would be doing a wiser thing than if they passed it. What they were asked to do by the Bill was to strike out the compulsion behind vaccination and if they took that course they would be acting wrongly.

Lord TWEEDMOUTH said that Lord Balfour's speech was a speech not in opposition to the present Bill but in advocacy of the repeal of the Act of 1898 passed by a Government of which he (Lord Balfour) was a member. So far as the information of the Scotch office went, it was that there had been very considerable representation as to the hardship of the present state of things in Scotland. He did not think that the present measure would be greatly used in Scotland but if there were really conscientious objectors they ought to have the same advantages that were given to the other inhabitants of Great Britain.

The Earl of CAMPERDOWN regretted that the Bill was not introduced in the early months of the Parliamentary session, so that the public health authorities in Scotland might have had an opportunity of expressing their opinion on it. Would the noble lord who represented the Scottish office (Lord Hamilton of Dalzell) go so far as to say that the Bill had been presented on the advice of the Local Government Board for Scotland? At the present time there did not appear to be any public demand in Scotland for the measure.

The LORD CHANCELLOR said that for his own part he had always submitted to the vaccination law on the ground of authority. The reason why the vaccination law of England was modified in 1898 was because it was desired to produce more vaccination than there had been before. The reason of this was obvious to those who looked at the circumstances. There was the 'perversity and obstinacy of human nature and a disposition not to submit to force common in England as it was common to all masculine races. Perhaps it was more common in Scotland than in England. The Royal Commission on Vaccination was the preparers of the English Bill and that Bill, he thought, had produced more vaccination in England. Therefore he did not think the same thing would produce harm in Scotland. The Royal Commission recommended that the change should be made in all parts of the kingdom. The Bill was, therefore, a proposal based on the recommendation of the Royal Commission. It was brought forward by the Government of the day on the statement that there was dissatisfaction in Scotland. It was calculated to advance the very purposes which Lord Balfour had at heart—the increase of vaccination. If the noble lord left people in Scotland to think that they were being differentially treated notwithstanding the recommendation of the Royal Commission he would get an irrational and unreasonable feeling against vaccination which did not exist at the present moment.

Viscount ST. ALDWYN believed that the change in the law in England had had the effect of increasing vaccination. He believed that Lord Balfour objected as strongly to imprisonment in connexion with the question of vaccination as any of their lordships. If a fine of 2s. 6d. or 10s. were a small thing, as Lord Balfour said, and Scotchmen, in spite of their traditional objection to the payment of money did not very much object to it, he still thought that their lordships should consider these fines in the light in which they might appear to the poorest in the community. Even a fine of 2s. 6d. might be felt to be a hardship to a person who knew that if he were in the same position in England he would be entitled to exemption. He was bound to say that he differed from his noble friend, and he did feel that it was impossible for him to go into the lobby with Lord Balfour against the Bill.

The motion for the rejection of the Bill was negatived without a division and the Bill was read a second time.

The Butter and Margarine Bill.

Earl CARRINGTON, in moving the second reading of this Bill, explained that it was designed to prevent fraud in the sale of butter and margarine.

The Earl of ONSLOW regretted that the Government had not seen its way in the Bill absolutely and entirely to prohibit the manufacture and sale of milk-blended butter.

The Bill was read a second time.

The Vaccination Bill.

Lord ALLENDALE in moving the second reading of the Vaccination Bill which has already passed all its stages in the House of Commons, said that the measure did not alter the law of vaccination as it stood, but simply effected an alteration in the legal method of obtaining an exemption from penalties for neglecting to have a child vaccinated. The Bill provided that no parent or custodian of a child should be liable to any penalty for the non-vaccination of the child if within four months of the child's birth he made a statutory declaration that he conscientiously objected to vaccination and delivered it to the vaccination officer of the district. He added that no serious opposition had been offered to the measure in the House of Commons.

The Bill was then read a second time.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7TH.

Scottish Bills Advanced.

The Vaccination (Scotland) Bill passed through Committee.

The Public Health (Scotland) Amendment Bill was read a third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31ST.

Motor Omnibus Accidents.

Mr. TIMOTHY DAVIES asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention had been called to the accident to a motor omnibus on Sunday last, when many people were seriously, and some dangerously, injured; was he aware that lives were daily sacrificed owing to careless driving and imperfect mechanism of the motor omnibuses which ran in the London streets; and whether he proposed to take measures to put a stop to this unnecessary sacrifice of human life and limb.—Mr. GLADSTONE answered: Inquiry is being made into the cause of this accident. I may say that the omnibus in question is reported to have been well constructed, and the driver has the reputation of being skilled and careful. The number of fatal accidents from motor omnibuses is not so great as the honourable

Member suggests. In the last three months (April to June) seven accidents occurred. Everything that is possible is being done by the companies to devise means for preventing skidding.

Sanatoriums in Ireland.

Mr. HUGH LAW asked the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Irish Local Government Board proposed to take any steps to carry out such recommendations of the Viceregal Commission on the Poor-law as did not require legislation; and in particular whether it was intended to build any sanatoriums for the treatment of consumption, or to adapt for the purpose any existing buildings.—Mr. BIRRELL replied: If the local authorities concerned should desire that effect may be given to any particular recommendations of the Viceregal Commission which can be carried out under the existing law the Local Government Board will give prompt and favourable consideration to the matter. Sanatoriums for the treatment of consumption can be provided under the existing law with the assent of the district councils. I may add that the Government are anxious that such administrative changes as can be now made should be undertaken without delay and are considering what steps may be taken with that object.

Tuberculous Meat and Milk.

Mr. FIELD asked the President of the Local Government Board whether he could state if the returns compiled by the Registrar-General were so framed as to give the number of deaths alleged to be attributable to the eating of cooked tuberculous meat and drinking uncooked tuberculous milk, and whether the infantile mortality was specified with regard to those alleged causes.—Mr. BURNS replied: The reply to the question is in the negative.

Haffkine's Prophylactic.

Sir WILLIAM COLLINS asked the Secretary of State for India whether he proposed to institute any further inquiry into certain deaths from tetanus in the Punjab consequent on the employment of Mr. Haffkine's prophylactic against plague or whether he accepted the conclusions of the Jenkins' Commission and of the Lister Institute as final; what action he proposed to take in regard to the further use of Mr. Haffkine's prophylactic and, if it was to be employed in the future, to which standard would it be required to conform; and whether Mr. Haffkine was to be reinstated or not.—Mr. MORLEY replied, by written answer: After giving the case my careful attention I am not prepared to institute another inquiry into a question which has been exhaustively examined by two impartial and independent bodies, and respecting which no conclusion can be arrived at with absolute certainty. The prophylactic continues to be manufactured at the Bombay Plague Laboratory. As is stated in the Government of India Press notice, dated Dec. 15th, 1904, the "standard method" of preparing the fluid has been reverted to, the fluid being sterilised by methods approved by the Indian Plague Commission and containing the requisite proportion of carbolic acid. The latest report of the laboratory states that inoculation is now extensively employed without any untoward results and I do not propose to take any action with regard to it. Mr. Haffkine's position was explained in the answer which I gave to the question asked by the honourable Member on March 19th, 1907. If he elects to return to India he will be employed on research work at a salary equal to that of which he was in receipt when he left India.

Medical Inspection of School Children.

After 11 o'clock at night,

Mr. McKENNA moved the second reading of the Education (Administrative Provisions) Bill, which contains a clause relating to the medical inspection of school children. In intimating that if in committee any proposal contained in the Bill was objected to by the official opposition he would not proceed with the clause containing it, the right honourable gentleman said that Clause 10, which related to the medical inspection of school children, was the same clause as was introduced as a separate Bill by Mr. Walter Rea. That Bill had already received the complete approval of the House and was now awaiting third reading. For that reason he need not enlarge on Clause 10, which he hoped would receive the support of all parties in the House.

Sir WILLIAM ANSON said he most cordially supported the clause with regard to medical inspection.

Sir HENRY CRAIK, in criticising the various provisions of the Bill, said that if they were to throw upon local authorities the duty of inspecting school children in this respect and were to make that inspection effective they must give systematic direction and force to the work from the central department. If this was to be a Government scheme it ought to be a scheme much more perfect and scientific and more on a level with the provisions which existed in other countries.

Sir FRANCIS POWELL expressed a hope that the clause providing for medical inspection would become law this session.

The Bill was then read a second time.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1ST.

Defaulting District Councils.

Mr. WEIR asked the President of the Local Government Board to state the names of the 12 district councils against which complaints were made during the years 1905 and 1906 in respect of default in the performance of their duty as required under Section 299 of the Public Health Act, 1875.—Mr. BURNS replied (by written answer): The names of the district councils whose cases were dealt with in the two years are as follows: In 1905, Dunmow rural, Eastbourne rural, Epsom rural, Penybont rural, and South Darley urban; and in 1906, Bromley rural, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett rural, Dunmow rural, Eastbourne rural, Hebburn urban, Lymington rural, and Rye rural. The cases of the Dunmow and Eastbourne rural district councils, which were partially dealt with in 1905, were further dealt with in 1906.

The Carshalton Hospital.

Mr. COOPER asked the President of the Local Government Board what was the annual amount of the interest, sinking fund, and cost of maintenance of the hospital for convalescent fever patients erected by the Metropolitan Asylums Board at Carshalton; whether the consent of the Local Government Board had to be obtained before the hospital could be erected; if so, whether any inquiry was made by the Local Government Board into the necessity of such hospital, and also the suitability of the site; and whether, as the hospital was unused, and there was great want of asylum accommodation in the county of London for imbecile and harmless senile lunatics, he would consider the advisability of requiring the Metropolitan Asylums Board using

this hospital for such a purpose.—Mr. BURNS furnished the following written reply: The annual charge in respect of the items referred to is in round sums as follows:—Interest, £7500; repayment of principal, £8000; cost of maintenance (about), £2000. The debt is repaid by equal annual instalments of principal, so that the charge for interest diminishes each year. The consent of the Local Government Board had to be obtained to the erection of the hospital. Before any consent was given a public inquiry was held by inspectors of the Board, at which the need for the hospital and the suitability of the site were considered. The question of the use of the hospital for other purposes than that for which it was provided has not been lost sight of either by the Board or the managers, and it will be again considered as soon as circumstances permit, but until the existing prevalence of fever has abated it is thought desirable that the accommodation afforded by this hospital should be held in reserve. I have promised to continue to give attention to the matter, but meanwhile I am glad to learn that the demands on the managers in respect of imbeciles and harmless senile lunatics are not such as to point to any great want of accommodation for this class at the present time.

The Belfast Health Commission.

Mr. SLOAN asked the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he was aware that no member of the Health Commission sitting at Belfast was a veterinary surgeon or other person equally qualified to examine meat and dairy inspectors, with the result that the Commission had been unable to enter fully into the diseases of animals transmissible to man; whether, seeing the interest the public were now taking in the necessity of pure food and milk, he could see his way to have a veterinary surgeon or some other person with equal qualifications appointed as Local Government Board inspector to advise local authorities on such matters; and if not would he consider the advisability of transferring this work to the veterinary branch of the Board of Agriculture.—Mr. BIRRELL replied (by written answer): It is the fact that no veterinary surgeon has been appointed to the Commission referred to, but the two Local Government medical inspectors and the medical officer of health of Glasgow who are on the Commission appear to be eminently fitted to deal with questions of milk- and meat-supply. Local authorities have power to appoint as inspectors veterinary surgeons to advise them upon these questions. I am not aware of any reason for transferring public health duties to the Department of Agriculture.

Food and Meat Inspection in Ireland.

Mr. SLOAN asked the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention had been called to a meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute held a few days ago at Douglas, where Sir Charles Cameron, medical officer of health of Dublin, stated that the central body should itself carry out, or insist on the local authorities carrying out, a more complete inspection of food and meat; and whether, in view of the resolution that was passed at a meeting of the Veterinary Medical Association in Belfast on July 26th to the effect that such inspection should be conducted only by trained veterinarians he could say what steps, if any, he proposed to take in the matter.—Mr. BIRRELL gave the following written reply: The honourable Member has sent to me a newspaper report of the proceedings referred to but the official report has not yet been issued. The Local Government Board has received a copy of the resolution passed by the Veterinary Surgeons' Association in Belfast. Under the law as it stands the appointment of inspectors of food and meat rests with the local authorities and they have full power to appoint veterinary surgeons in that capacity.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2ND.

Public Health (Regulations as to Food) Bill.

On the motion for the second reading of the Public Health (Regulations as to Food) Bill, Mr. G. J. COOPER moved as an amendment that the Bill should be read a second time this day three months. He went on to say that it would make a drastic change in the law by transferring to the Local Government Board the whole control of the regulations dealing with food. It would place all food except drugs and all drinks except water under regulations to be made by the Local Government Board. There was no security that those regulations would be submitted to Parliament.

Mr. WATT, in seconding Mr. Cooper's amendment, regretted that the Local Government Board did not propose to give any notice as to any one of the regulations for the destruction of food, however drastic, which they should make under the Bill. They would deal with the importation, preparation, storage, and distribution of articles of food and drink without giving notice to the people affected. Such a principle he believed had been seldom assented to by the House of Commons. He was strongly of opinion that such regulations should be laid before both Houses of Parliament for 40 days before they came into effect.

Mr. JOHN BURNS asked the House to give a second reading to this useful, necessary, and too long delayed measure. It would make up deficiencies in existing Acts of Parliament by giving the Local Government Board controlling powers over the condition, preparation, storage, and distribution of human food which was peculiarly liable to become unsound. At present the Public Health Acts empowered a medical officer of health or an inspector of nuisances to examine meat or other articles of food if exposed or deposited for purposes of sale or in preparation for sale, and a magistrate could condemn such food if it were diseased or unwholesome. Penalties might be imposed on the persons in whose premises it was found. That provision, however, was insufficient to protect public health. The defect in the existing law was that foods on their way to be sold or prepared could not be touched, because they were not, in the language of the Act, "exposed for sale" for human consumption. The position could be best illustrated by a concrete instance. At the conclusion of the South African war a large quantity of tinned foods sent out for the use of the army was sold. So bad was the reputation of this food in South Africa that no one would think of touching it. It was shipped back to England and although it was known to be in a shocking condition it could not be seized at the port of landing because it was not exposed for sale. It came to London, and to the credit of the firm who originally prepared it and sold it, and who, of course, were not responsible for the condition into which it had fallen by lapse of time, they informed the Local Government Board of the circumstance, because they feared that if the food were sold with their name on the packages their reputation would suffer enormously. The

Local Government Board, however, had no power to seize the food. All it could do was to try to persuade the person who bought it not to put such stuff on the market, and this it succeeded in doing, with the result that the stuff was destroyed. The authorities ought not to be in this helpless condition. He contended that if a cargo of unsound food arrived in this country it ought to be in the power of the medical officer at the port to say that it should not be put upon the market. If this power existed not only would the poor be protected from the consequences of eating such food but small shopkeepers would be saved from the risk of having their reputations ruined through being prosecuted for exposing it for sale. Under the present Bill the Local Government Board would be able to stop such food at the port of entry. Only two port sanitary authorities at present—those of London and Manchester—had the power to deal effectively with food on landing, but this Bill would place Liverpool, Glasgow, and all the other towns in the same position and enable the port sanitary authority to inspect articles of food at the port, to take samples, and to destroy unsound articles. The regulations would also require satisfactory evidence as to the antecedents of the food such as was demanded by Germany, Denmark, and many other countries. They would insist upon the authorities knowing the conditions under which food was prepared, especially articles like sausages, brawn, and other things mainly consumed by the poor. Food would have to be stored in a clean and decent place. For example, ice-cream in process of preparation should not be kept under a bed or near a lavatory. Further, with regard to the distribution of food the regulations would insist that the receptacles, waggons, and other means of transport should be kept cleaner than they now were. Under existing conditions a medical officer was unable to go where he could obtain the information as to what went on in the preparation of food for human consumption, though it was well known that there were places in which food was prepared under the most insanitary conditions. Mr. Burns then quoted passages from a number of reports submitted by medical officers of health in support of the case for the Bill. One report from Finsbury stated that meat actually diseased, chiefly offal and veal, was imported even from countries where inspection took place. If the whole of this unsound food had been placed in waggons and transported from Finsbury to Battersea medical officers could not have stopped it in process of transit because it was not exposed for sale for human consumption. Another report stated that there were two vanloads of tinned meat in a very bad condition. When analysed the meat was found to be not cattle or sheep but horseflesh from Hamburg. Honourable Members could now realise what happened to the poor horses often seen in the streets of London going to the docks to be shipped abroad, and coming back after an interval as canned goods. In December, 1906, there were, according to the report of another medical officer of health, 11,000 tins of mixed food, the contents of which were putrid and unwholesome. The food was saturated with tin. The medical officer of Marylebone described a consignment of unsound meat in which the liver was filled with parasites and abscesses. THE LANCET, which deserved the greatest praise and credit for the way in which it had pressed the Government to do something in the direction proposed by the Bill, had said in an article in its issue of June 15th, 1907: "The trade in diseased meat and putrid milk, to say nothing of adulterated food-stuffs, will never be put an end to until the vendors are treated as the poisoners which they really are." He could give instance after instance to prove the truth of the comments of THE LANCET. He could give instances of human food treated with boric acid and so on. Therefore, he asked the House to give the Local Government Board not only the power to stop the sale of unsound meat but to enable the medical authorities to do legally what they could only now do by permission and bluff, amounting almost to intimidation. Proceeding to deal with the way in which the food of the poor was stored in some districts, he quoted official reports from the East End of London. These reports, set out that the sausage and brawn factories, mostly owned by Germans, were dilapidated places, badly lit, and often infested with rats. In another instance beef was received in a filthy passage and hung on hooks against a filthy wall. Pickling tubs were placed in low-lying cellars; ice-cream was prepared in an open shed near a lavatory; and 70 cases of enteric had resulted from food which had been in a bedroom where children were suffering from that fever. Instances had been found where food was kept in the vicinity of a stable. He therefore appealed to the House to give his department power under the Bill to deal with this terrible evil. Whether tinned food came from Australia, Canada, the United States, Liverpool, or elsewhere, all dealers and manufacturers ought to be made to toe the line of one medical and sanitary standard. The right honourable gentleman went on to quote from a report made by Dr. G. S. Buchanan on tinned foods and that report showed that some of the food he examined contained bone and gristle, hog's bristles, and human hairs, and was dirty in addition. It might be said that since the recent exposures concerning tinned meat things had been put right and that there was no need for panic. Well, he could have got this Bill when the panic was at its height but he had thought it better to allow the panic period to pass before he brought it forward. He was satisfied that however perfect things might be now there was a strong probability that they would relapse to where they were. In proof of this he would read the following report which had been forwarded to him from a source which he would not now name. "I have the honour to inform you that I am told by the German Consul that the American meat packers have informed his Government that they are willing to agree to any inspection of meat required, on condition that what was rejected by the German officials is returned to them as it can be sold in the United Kingdom." He was not going to have that sort of thing. If we did not have the regulations provided for by the Bill there was the possibility that food rejected at German ports as unfit would be sent on by shippers to the United Kingdom. He was not going to allow diseased horseflesh to be sold in this country as "best Piccadilly brawn." This country ought not to take what other European countries would not take. He could give the House further instances to prove every statement he had made. All the local authorities were in favour of the Bill. He asked the House to give the Local Government Board power to make regulations and let the regulations be communicated to every sanitary authority. The regulations would not be enforced for 28 days after issue except in cases of emergency, so as to give all the interests affected time to make representations to the Local Government Board if they felt prejudiced by them. During those 28 days he would lose no opportunity of consulting with the trade. He hoped that in the interests of the consumers of the £40,000,000 worth of food that came annually into

the country the Local Government Board would be given the powers embodied in the Bill. None but the dishonest trader in unsound food and the dirty manufacturer would have any reason to complain of the simple, necessary, and, he hoped, effective regulations that would be made.

Sir FRANCIS POWELL observed that the right honourable gentleman had made out a complete case for his Bill and he hoped that it would be placed on the statute book this session.

Sir WALTER FOSTER doubted if the machinery proposed by the Bill was adequate to deal with the magnitude of the evil described by the President of the Local Government Board. Food inspection to be carried out thoroughly and efficiently would necessitate hundreds of inspectors being employed and paid out of the rates. Under the existing law local authorities could have inspectors to attend markets and prevent diseased cattle from being sold and killed for food. Unfortunately local authorities would not help in this way. He hoped that the department would take steps to see that the local authorities were kept up to their work.

Mr. CAVE believed that the President of the Local Government Board had made out a very strong case for a Bill of this kind, but he urged that care should be taken that the regulations only applied to unsound food or the manufacture of food under insanitary conditions. He was afraid that the right honourable gentleman had effectually destroyed the appetite which any of them might have left for *pâté de foie gras* or for ice-creams.

Replying to other speakers, Mr. BURNS said that he was quite willing to turn the 28 days into 40 days and was prepared to lay the regulations on the table of the House for that period.

Mr. COOPER on this assurance withdrew his amendment.

The Bill was then read a second time and committed to the whole House.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6TH.

Belfast Health Commission.

Mr. DEVLIN asked the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he could state the probable date on which the report of the Belfast Health Commission would be issued; and whether it was proposed to issue any *ad interim* report.—Mr. BIRRELL replied (by a written answer): I understand from the chairman of the Commission that the report will probably not be ready before the end of September. It is not proposed to issue an interim report.

Exemptions from Vaccination.

In answer to Mr. LUPTON, Mr. JOHN BURNS said: The number of certificates of conscientious objection to vaccination received by vaccination officers in 1906 was 52,391.

Appointments.

Successful applicants for Vacancies, Secretaries of Public Institutions, and others possessing information suitable for this column, are invited to forward to THE LANCET Office, directed to the Sub-Editor, not later than 9 o'clock on the Thursday morning of each week such information for gratuitous publication.

ARNOTT, W., M.B., B.S. Lond., has been appointed House Surgeon at the General Infirmary, Leeds.

BENTHALL, ALBERT, F.R.C.P. Edin., M.R.C.S. Eng., has been appointed by the Secretary of State under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, a Medical Referee for Circuits Nos. 40 and 42.

BURTON, C. F., M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A., has been appointed by the Shipping Federation Examining Officer of Seamen at Whitby under the Compensation Act.

DAVIDSON, THOMAS, M.B. Edin., has been appointed House Surgeon at the Stockton and Thornaby Hospital.

DE SOUZA, D. H., M.B., B.S., B.Sc. Lond., has been appointed Demonstrator in Physiology at the University of Sheffield.

GOUGH, A., M.B., Ch.B. Leeds, has been appointed House Surgeon at the General Infirmary, Leeds.

GREENWOOD, F. G., M.B. Cantab., has been appointed House Physician at the General Infirmary, Leeds.

RODRIGUES, N. JOSEPH, L.R.C.P. & S. Edin., has been appointed Assistant House and Visiting Surgeon to the Stockport Infirmary.

TINLEY, W. E. F., M.D. Durh., has been appointed Certifying Surgeon under the Factory and Workshop Act in the Whitby District.

WALKER, M. G. L., M.B., Ch.B. Leeds, has been appointed Junior Resident Ophthalmic Officer at the General Infirmary, Leeds.

WRANGHAM, W., M.D. Lond., has been appointed Honorary Assistant Physician to the Bradford Royal Infirmary.

Vacancies.

For further information regarding each vacancy reference should be made to the advertisement (see Index).

BARNESLEY, BECKETT HOSPITAL.—House Surgeon. Salary £100, with board and lodging.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS, NORTH LONSDALE HOSPITAL.—House Surgeon. Salary £100 per annum, with board and lodging.

BATH, BAILBROOK HOUSE.—Medical Superintendent. Salary £450 per annum, with extra payments, board for self and wife if married, quarters, laundry, and attendance.

BEDFORD COUNTY HOSPITAL.—House Physician. Salary £60 per annum, with apartments, board, and laundry.

BIRMINGHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL.—Three Receiving-room Officers. Salary £150 per annum.

BIRMINGHAM, QUEEN'S HOSPITAL.—House Physician. Also Obstetric and Ophthalmic House Surgeon for seven months. Salaries at the rate of £50 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing.

BOURNEMOUTH, ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL.—House Surgeon. Salary £100 per annum, with board, lodging, and laundry.

BRADFORD SANATORIUM FOR CONSUMPTIVES, Eastby, near Skipton.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary £100, with rations, apartments, and washing.